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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
RESPONSE TO THE JANUARY 20, 2004 OFFICE ACTION

APPLICANTS: Klaus DIETRICH et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 3711
SERIAL NO.: 09/768,699 GROUP ART UNIT: 3621
FILED: January 24, 2001 EXAMINER: John M. Winter
TITLE: "POSTAGE METER MACHINE AND SECURITY MODULE
THEREFORE"

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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S I R:

Applicants and their counsel have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated January 20, 2004, but believe the claims in their present form are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following arguments in support of patentability is therefore respectfully requested.

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Allen